

A-level HISTORY

Component 1K The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975

Tuesday 21 May 2019 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1K.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Extract A

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Adapted from A Badger, *The New Deal*, 2002

Extract B

The stock market crash of 1929 came directly from wild speculation which collapsed and brought the whole economy down with it. Due to the inaction of the Hoover government, Roosevelt won overwhelmingly and began a programme of reform legislation. These reforms went far beyond previous legislation. Where trade union power was strong, Roosevelt compromised on principles to help working people. There was an attempt to organise agriculture. The Tennessee Valley Authority gave jobs to the unemployed and helped consumers with lower electric rates. The sight of federally-subsidised housing projects, playgrounds, vermin-free apartments replacing dilapidated tenements, was refreshing. The New Deals suggested exciting possibilities for regional planning to give jobs, improve areas, with local instead of national control. The period also saw federal money go to thousands of writers and artists; it was an exciting time. World War Two brought higher prices for farmers, higher wages and enough prosperity for enough of the population. In the post-war decade, Truman continued the push for a national consensus, through his 'Fair Deal'.

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Adapted from H Zinn, *The Twentieth Century*, 2003

Extract C

The Federal Reserve System, functioning like a central bank for the US, had not established a clear set of rules for intervening in an economic crisis. Mostly, those in charge believed that an economy in crisis should be left alone. The US government kept no regular statistics on unemployment or economic growth. The governments' inaction followed the traditional opinion of the day. Hoover opposed federal relief on principle and supported any federal action reluctantly. During the Roosevelt administration, the federal government began offering substantial direct aid to the unemployed. Yet these measures were patchy and not always welcome. The biggest opposition to the New Deals was the Supreme Court. The Court believed that the National Recovery Administration took power away from Congress; they invalidated the Agricultural Adjustment Act, along with a set of New Deal measures afterwards. By 1939, Republicans and Democrats voted together to defeat the spending bills Roosevelt had proposed. However, by the end of the 1940s, the government had come round to the idea of federal spending.

Adapted from E Rauchway, *The Great Depression and the New Deal*, 2008

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- Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the US governments' economic policies from 1929 to the end of the 1940s.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'Laissez-faire policies, in the years 1865 to 1890, were economically damaging.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 'The Immigration Acts of the early 1920s were the result of social tensions arising from immigration since the 1890s.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4 How successful were attempts by US governments, in the years 1955 to 1975, to reduce Cold War tensions?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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